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**Title 28**  
**EDUCATION**  
**Part III. Proprietary Schools**

**Chapter 1. General Provisions**

**§101. Citation and Abbreviation**

A. These rules and regulations of the Board of Regents ("Board") govern the licensing and monitoring of proprietary schools operating in Louisiana upon the recommendation and advice of the Proprietary Schools Advisory Commission ("Commission").

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.3(D)(2) and (E).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1857 (September 2007).

**§103. Definitions**

*Proprietary Schools*, hereinafter referred to as "school"—any business enterprise operated on a profit or on a nonprofit basis which maintains a place of business within this state, or which sells or offers for sale any course of instruction in this state, either by correspondence using the mails or by any other means of communication, or by personal solicitation, at which place of business such course or course of instruction or study is available through classroom instruction, or both, to a person or persons for the purpose of training or preparing such person(s) for a field of endeavor in a business, trade, technical, or industrial occupation, except as hereinafter excluded. For purposes of this definition, a school that sells or offers for sale any course of instruction in this state through the internet or by correspondence is deemed a school only if it is also domiciled in the state or has a physical presence in the state. Physical presence shall include a mailing address in the state, a solicitor recruiting students in the state, or actual facilities in the state. The definition of a school shall not include:

1. a school or educational institution supported entirely or partly by public funds from either a local or state source. This provision only exempts from the board's regulation those schools that derive direct and significant support from public funds (such as through direct appropriation, and not schools that derive indirect benefit from public funds, such as through contractual payments from governmental agencies);

2. a parochial, denominational or eleemosynary school or institution that provides religious training or theological education; however, any such school or institution that also offers training in a secular field of endeavor shall be subject to the provisions of this Chapter;

3. a school or training program which offers instruction primarily in the field of recreation, health, entertainment or personal enrichment and which does not

purport to prepare or qualify persons for employment as determined by the commission;

4. a course or courses of instruction or study sponsored by an employer exclusively for the training and preparation of its own employees when the employer is not primarily engaged in the business of selling or offering course of instruction or study. This includes those businesses that engage in contract training exclusively, and where admission/enrollment is not available to the general public;

5. a course or courses of study or instruction sponsored by a recognized trade, business or professional organization for the instruction of the members of such organization;

6. private colleges and universities which only award a baccalaureate or higher degree and which maintain and operate educational programs for which academic credits are given;

7. a private school which provides a basic academic education comparable to that provided in the public schools of the state;

8. a school offering a program only for children under six years of age;

9. a school which is otherwise regulated and licensed under the laws of this state;

10. a private tutor, teacher or individual engaged in giving private tutoring or lessons to five persons or less in non-school connected activities severed from the regular curriculum of a school as determined by the commission;

11. a day camp;

12. a training program that does not have attendance requirements in place for persons taking the courses and which offers for sale only non-sequential and non-continuous courses of one week duration or less which do not exceed 20 hours of training;

13. a manufacturer-certified training center that offers, at no additional charge to the person receiving training, manufacturer-authorized training that is included as part of the manufacturer's pricing package to prepare persons for certification conferred by the manufacturer and that uses course equipment and materials which are developed and sold by the manufacturer and course instructors and facilities which are certified by the manufacturer;

14. a school or business enterprise which offers instruction to prepare students for tests which are required for entry into a post secondary program of study; or

15. a business which engages in contract training and is reimbursed by the business.

*Branch School*—a separate facility established by a main school, under the main school's management, control and supervision. The branch may offer full student services and is under the supervision of a designated on-site employee responsible for the day-to-day operation of the branch. Each branch school shall be separately licensed and bonded.

*Commission Staff*—the staff of the board's Proprietary Schools Section, authorized to aid in the administration of the commission's functions.

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.2(5).

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1857 (September 2007).

### **§105. Proprietary Schools Law and the Administrative Procedure Act Incorporated**

A. R.S. 17:3141.1 et seq., inclusive, known as the Proprietary Schools Law, and R.S. 49:951 et seq., known as the Administrative Procedure Act, in their currently existing form and as may be amended, are hereby incorporated herein. All remedies and procedures available to the public under these laws, as they pertain to this commission, are hereby made available herein as rules.

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.1, R.S. 49:954.1(A), R.S. 17:3141.3(E).

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1857 (September 2007).

### **§107. Computation of Time**

A. In computing a period of time allowed or prescribed by these rules, by law or by order of the commission or of court, the date of the act, event, or default after which the period begins to run is not to be included. The last day of the period is to be included, unless it is a legal holiday or a day of the weekend, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day, which is not a legal holiday or a day of the weekend.

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.3(E), La. C.C.P. art. 5059.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1858 (September 2007).

## **Chapter 3. Procedures**

### **Subchapter A. General Procedural Rules**

#### **§301. Initiation of Proceedings**

A. Proceedings. Proceedings for the adoption, amendment, or repeal of a rule may be commenced by the board or commission upon its own initiative or pursuant to reasonable grounds therefore. The commission however, shall initiate procedures to adopt, amend or repeal a rule whenever the attorney general requests same.

B. Process for Initiation. Any interested person may petition the commission requesting the adoption,

amendment, or repeal of a rule. The petition shall be filed in the office of the commission located at the Claiborne Building, the Louisiana Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, 1201 N. Third St., Suite 6-200, Baton Rouge, LA 70802 or P.O. Box 3677, Baton Rouge, LA 70821, or such other address in the event the commission relocates, at any time during normal office hours, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 pm, except for legal holidays and the weekend. Within 90 days after submission of a petition, the commission shall either deny the petition in writing stating reasons for the denial, or shall initiate rule-making proceedings in accordance with these rules. Any person whose petition is not deemed by the commission sufficient to warrant the holding of a rule-making proceeding will be promptly notified of that determination and may be given an opportunity to submit additional data.

C. Investigations and Conferences. In connection with any rule-making proceedings, the commission at any time may conduct such investigations, make such studies, and hold such conferences as it may deem necessary.

D. Notice. Prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule, the commission shall give notice of its intended action in accordance with R.S. 49:953(A)(1). The notice shall include a statement of either the terms or substance of the intended action or a description of the subjects and issues involved, and the time when, the place where, and the manner in which interested persons may present their views thereon. The notice shall be mailed to all persons who have made a timely request of the agency for advance notice of its rule-making proceedings and shall be published at least once in the official state journal.

E. Opportunity to be Heard. Prior to the adoption, amendment, or repeal of any rule, the commission shall afford all interested persons reasonable opportunity to submit data, views, or arguments, orally or in writing, in accordance with R.S. 49:953(A)(2).

F. Emergency Rules. If the commission finds that an imminent peril to the public health, safety, or welfare requires adoption of a rule upon shorter notice than that provided above, it may proceed to adopt emergency rules in accordance with R.S. 49:953(B). The emergency rule thus adopted may be effective for a period not to exceed 60 days, but the adoption of an identical rule otherwise under these rules is not precluded.

G. Filing, Publication and Effective Date of Rule. The commission shall file with the Office of State Register a certified copy of any rule or regulation adopted upon the completion of a rule-making proceeding and publish the same in the official state journal in accordance with R.S. 49:954. Such rules or regulations shall become effective pursuant to R.S. 49:954(B).

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 49:953, R.S. 49:954.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1858 (September 2007).

## Subchapter B. Pleadings

### §303. Petition to Adopt, Amend or Repeal a Rule

#### A. Petition to Adopt, Amend, or Repeal a Rule

1. A petition to adopt, amend, or repeal a rule shall be typed or printed on either standard letter size bond paper or on standard legal size bond paper;

2. the petition shall be dated and shall contain the following:

- a. the title of the pleading (i.e., "petition");
- b. the names of the petitioners;
- c. the names of representatives and legal counselors of such petitioners (if applicable);
- d. all pertinent allegations of fact, data, views, arguments and reasons supporting the action sought by the petition;
- e. a statement or prayer expressing the exact action sought by the petition; and

f. the signatures of all petitioners, if individual, natural persons, or the signatures of duly qualified representatives of petitioner, if a governmental agency or subdivision or an association of persons;

3. the petition, in setting forth all pertinent allegations of fact, data, views, arguments, and reasons supporting the action sought by the petition, shall contain separate, numbered paragraphs, one for each fact, data, view, argument, and reason set forth;

4. the petition, in expressing the exact action sought by it, shall cite and quote the rule to be adopted, amended, or repealed; and if a rule is sought to be amended, the petition shall quote the rule as it would read after amendment, if it were in fact amended; and

5. only substantial compliance is necessary to meet the requirements of form, and to that end, the provisions of this section shall be liberally construed in favor of accepting the petition.

B. Other Pleadings. Pleadings of any type may be submitted to the commission. They shall be similar in form to that of petitions, except that they may exclude those things peculiar to petitions and shall include those things to which they pertain.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 49:953.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1858 (September 2007).

## Subchapter C. Citation and Production of Evidence for Rule-Making Procedures

### §305. Voluntary Submission of Evidence

A. Any interested person may voluntarily submit evidence, testimonial or real, to the commission, such

evidence being relevant and material to any issue involved in the adoption, amendment or repeal of any rule, to the corroboration of or to the unreliability or inaccuracy of any witness or other source of evidence submitted, or to the credibility or non-credibility of any witness or other source of evidence submitted, in the same form and manner as otherwise provided herein or by law.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 49:953.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1859 (September 2007).

## Subchapter D. Public Hearings

### §307. Adjudication

A. Process. In any matter defined as adjudication in R.S. 49:951(1), notice shall be given, hearings held and a decision or order issued, all in accordance with the procedures provided for adjudications in R.S. 49:955-961. Upon the conclusion of the hearing and consideration of all evidence presented, the commission shall submit a recommended decision or order to the board for board approval.

#### B. Rules of Evidence

1. The commission may admit and give probative effect to evidence which possesses probative value and which is commonly accepted by reasonably prudent men in the conduct of their affairs. It shall give effect to the rules of privilege recognized by law. It shall exclude incompetent, irrelevant, immaterial, and unduly repetitious evidence. Objections to evidentiary offers may be made and shall be noted in the record. Subject to these requirements, when a hearing will be expedited and the interests of the parties will not be prejudiced substantially, any part of the evidence may be received in written form;

2. all evidence, including records and documents in the possession of the commission of which it desires to avail itself, shall be offered and made a part of the record, and all such documentary evidence may be received in the form of copies or excerpts, or by incorporation by reference. In case of incorporation by reference, the materials so incorporated shall be available for examination by all interested persons before being received in evidence; and

3. notice may be taken of judicially recognizable facts. In addition, notice may be taken of generally recognized technical or scientific facts within the commission's specialized knowledge. All persons who have shown an interest therein shall be notified either before or during the hearing, or by reference in preliminary reports or otherwise, of the material noticed, including any staff memoranda or data, and they shall be afforded an opportunity to contest the material so noticed. The commission's experience, technical competence, and specialized knowledge may be utilized in the evaluation of the evidence.

C. Admission of Depositions. The presiding officer or any person interested in a proceeding before the commission may take the depositions of witnesses, within or without the

state, in the same manner clothed with all the formalities as provided by law for the taking of depositions. Depositions so taken shall be admissible in any proceeding affected by this Chapter. The admission of such depositions may be objected to at the time of hearing and may be received in evidence or excluded from the evidence by the presiding officer in accordance with the rules of evidence provided in this Chapter above.

D. Reopening Hearing and Rehearings. The commission may reopen any hearing for good cause shown, and may grant a rehearing in accordance with R.S. 49:959.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 49:955, R.S. 49:956, R.S. 49:959.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1859 (September 2007).

## **Subchapter E. Declaratory Orders and Rulings**

### **§309. Declaratory Orders and Rulings**

A. The commission shall consider petitions for a declaratory order or ruling as to the applicability of any statutory provision or of any rule or order of the board, submitted pursuant to R.S. 49:962, hold hearings if necessary, and submit a recommended declaratory order or ruling. A petition for a declaratory order or ruling shall contain:

1. the title of the pleading (e.g., "Petition for Declaratory Order");
2. the names of the petitioners;
3. the names of representatives and legal counselors of such petitioners (if applicable);
4. a concise statement of the issue posed, along with citations to the statute, rule or order at issue;
5. a clearly organized statement of all pertinent allegations of fact and data, and if the petitioner takes a specific position on the issue, the arguments and reasons supporting such position;
6. a statement or prayer expressing the exact action sought by the petition;
7. the signatures of all petitioners, if individual, natural persons, or the signatures of duly qualified representatives of petitioner, if a governmental agency or subdivision or an association of persons; and
8. only substantial compliance is necessary to meet the requirements of form, and to that end, the provisions of this section shall be liberally construed in favor of accepting the petition.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 49:962.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1859 (September 2007).

## **Chapter 5. License Requirements**

### **§501. Applications**

#### **A. General**

1. All applications must comply with the provisions of R.S. 17:3141.4, as well as any applicable provisions of these regulations. All applications concerning licenses are to be submitted to the commission at the following address or such other address in the event the commission relocates:

Louisiana Board of Regents  
Proprietary Schools Section  
Post Office Box 3677  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677

2. All applicable fees, as provided below, must be by company, institutional, certified check, or by money order and must be made payable to the "Louisiana Board of Regents", with the exception of the Student Protection Fund which is to be made payable to the "Student Protection Fund." Except for overpayments toward the Student Protection Fund, no portion of any license fee shall be subject to refund.

B. Initial Application and License Fee. The initial license application fee shall be \$2,000. A payment of \$1,000 toward the student protection fund must be paid along with the license fee.

#### **C. Renewal Application and Fee**

1. The annual renewal application fee is based on the school's gross tuition revenues for the previous year as follows:

- a. under \$50,000—\$500;
- b. \$50,000 and up—greater of \$1,000 or 0.25 percent of gross tuition income.

2. If a complete license renewal application is not received at least 30 days prior to its expiration date, in addition to the renewal fee, there shall be a delinquent fee of \$500. In addition to the renewal application fee and any delinquent fee, a payment to the Student Protection Fund, if applicable, must be made in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.16.

D. License Fee for Solicitors. The annual license fee for each solicitor/sales representative of a school shall be \$100.

E. Reinstatement Licensure Fee. The reinstatement licensure fee for a suspended school shall be \$500.

F. Change of Ownership Application and License Fee. All changes of ownership are contingent upon approval from the board. Applications for a new license must be requested within 10 days of the change of ownership. No license shall be transferable. The application fee is \$2,000. A payment of \$1,000 toward the student protection fund must be made along with the application fee.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.4, R.S. 17:3141.9(A)(1).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1859 (September 2007).

### **§503. Student Protection Fund**

A. First Payment. Initial (new) schools and change-of-ownership schools shall be required to submit their first payment of \$1,000 made payable to the "Student Protection Fund" with their application.

B. Annual Payment. The required annual payments, if applicable, to the Student Protection Fund shall be collected based on the schedule provided in R.S. 17:3141.16.

C. Collection Schedule. Annual payments shall cease when the fund accumulates to \$800,000 but shall resume when the fund drops below \$750,000.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.16.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1860 (September 2007).

### **§505. Affidavits**

A. Applications and renewal applications must be accompanied by affidavits (PSC-9 Form) by each owner, director, instructor, and all office and clerical personnel, unless previously approved, and Solicitor Permit Applications (PSC-4 Form) by each solicitor containing the information prescribed by Subsection C(11) or R.S. 17:3141.1 (for solicitor renewal, see Section 703). In the case of office and clerical personnel, in lieu of the affidavits of such personnel, the owner may submit an affidavit setting forth the information prescribed by Subsection C(11) of R.S. 17:3141.4 concerning such personnel. Such information shall be based on the owner's investigation and knowledge. For solicitor renewal, see Section 703.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.4(D).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1860 (September 2007).

### **§507. Surety Bond**

A. Each license application must be accompanied by a surety bond in the amount of \$10,000 issued by a surety authorized to do business in Louisiana. The bond must meet the requirements set forth in R.S. 17:3141.5 and the PSC-3 Form. Bond releases and terminations shall be as provided in R.S. 17:3141.5(D) and (E), and suspension of operating license for lack of surety bond coverage is governed by R.S. 17:3141.5(F). A school may be exempted from filing a surety bond if it meets all of the following requirements:

1. does not require students to pay tuition for course of study more than one month in advance;
2. has been in continuous operation for at least five years; and
3. has met all the requirements of the commission.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.5(D), R.S. 17:3141.5(E).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1860 (September 2007).

### **§509. Other Provisions Concerning License**

A. A license shall be valid only for the school and shall not include other schools or branches operated by the owner. Each separate location or branch school shall be licensed and bonded. No new courses shall be offered by any school holding a license until it is approved by the commission staff in accordance with procedures to be established by the commission.

B. Each license must be displayed on the premises. No license shall be transferable. In the event of a change of ownership of the school, the license shall be revoked unless the new owner, within 10 days after the change of ownership, requests an application for a license to operate the school.

C. Any person who contemplates the purchase of a school may apply for a license. If the board grants such a license, it shall become a valid license only upon completion of the proposed sale.

D. All licenses shall be renewed annually, not less than 30 days prior to expiration date thereof. Updated information must contain all changes in staff, school programs, etc., including all additions and deletions.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.5(B)(C).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1860 (September 2007).

### **§511. Denial of Recommendation of License and Commission Hearing**

A. If the commission or commissioner recommends the denial of a license, the commission shall hold a hearing upon the applicant's request, as provided in R.S. 17:3141.6. The applicant may appear in person or by counsel and may present evidence in support of granting the license. The decision or order resulting from a hearing before the commission is subject to rehearing, reopening, or reconsideration by the commission within 10 days from the date of its entry on the grounds set forth in R.S. 49:959 and in accordance with the procedures therein.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.6.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1860 (September 2007).

### **§513. Revocation of License**

A. Licenses may be revoked by the board in accordance with the standards and procedures set forth in R.S. 17:3141.8 and statutory and regulatory provisions applicable thereto.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.8.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1861 (September 2007).

## Chapter 7. Personnel

### Affidavits/Permits

#### §701. Completion of Affidavits by Non-Instructional Personnel/Instructional Personnel

##### A. Completion of Affidavit by Non-Instructional Personnel

1. An affidavit (PSC-9 Form) containing the following information must be submitted by the owner of each school (if a corporation, by each officer and by each director) and by each staff person, except solicitors:

a. full name and address of said person and the capacity in which he/she serves the school;

b. the city, parish/county, and state of said person's permanent residence and places of residence for the past five years;

c. the names and addresses of said person's employer or employers for the past five years;

d. whether or not said person has ever been convicted of a felony for a crime involving fraud or any misdemeanor other than a traffic violation; and

e. three persons who may be contacted concerning such person's good moral character.

2. In the case of office and clerical personnel, in lieu of affidavits by the office and clerical personnel, the owner may submit the information in the form of an affidavit by the owner, based on the owner's investigation and knowledge. (Refer to §505.)

##### B. Completion of Affidavit by Instructional Personnel

1. An affidavit (PSC-9 Form) containing the following information must be submitted by each person who will be serving as an instructor at the school:

a. full name and address of said person and the capacity in which he/she serves the school;

b. the names and addresses of said person's employer or employers for the past five years; and

c. three persons who may be contacted concerning such person's good moral character.

2. Minimum qualifications of an instructor include the following:

a. an instructor in an academically-credentialed area shall have a baccalaureate degree from a bonafide, accredited college or university, and demonstrate appropriate familiarity with the subject matter taught as evidenced by an academic transcript and/or occupational experience;

b. an instructor, in other than an academically-credentialed area, shall have a high school diploma or its equivalent; a license, diploma, certificate, or other degree from a recognized institution or organization in the area taught; and four years of documented occupational experience in the area taught;

c. as used in this Subsection, a "recognized institution or organization" shall mean any bonafide, licensed, chartered or traditionally accredited business or association legally engaged in commerce, education, training, or advocacy. Recognized institutions or organizations shall include, but not be limited to, governmental agencies, labor unions, trade and professional corporations, and retail, financial, and commercial entities. The commission shall reserve the right to use all reasonable means in verifying the validity of credentials;

d. at the board's discretion, the minimum four years experience required for instructors may be waived for those disciplines where teaching credentials are officially certified, licensed, or otherwise approved or granted by a federal agency; and

e. employees employed prior to May 30, 1989 will be exempted from occupational experience.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.8.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1861 (September 2007).

#### §703. Solicitor Application, Bonds, Renewal, Denial, and Revocation

All forms are prepared and provided by the Commission Staff.

A. Permits and Applications. No person shall sell any course of instruction or solicit students therefore in Louisiana for any school unless he has obtained a solicitor's permit from the commission. A separate permit is required for each school the solicitor represents. A separate application (PSC-4 Form) with required fee and bond must be submitted for each permit sought (i.e., for each school to be represented).

Louisiana Board of Regents  
Proprietary Schools Section  
Post Office Box 3677  
Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677

B. Bonds. Surety bonds for permits must be in the amount of \$1,000 for each permit issued. The bond must be continuous and must be issued by a solvent surety authorized to do business in Louisiana (see PSC-5 Form). The bond may be supplied as a blanket bond by a school covering each agent, \$1,000 in amount for each agent. This bond is set forth in PSC-6 Form. If a surety cancels a bond (as provided in R.S. 17:3141.9B) then a substitute bond (meeting all conditions for the original) must be furnished and the solicitor's permit shall be in a state of suspension for any period of time not covered by a proper bond.

C. Renewals. Each permit is valid for one year from date of issuance unless revoked and must be renewed not less than 30 days prior to expiration date. At the time of renewal, the owner/director must submit a PSC-4 Form, (unless the owner/director submits written notification of continued employment of solicitor); a \$100 renewal fee (made payable to the "Louisiana Board of Regents"); and proof of continuous bond coverage.



D. Denial of Permits. The commission may deny recommendations of issuance of a permit when proper grounds exist therefore. The procedures in such cases shall be in accordance with the applicable provision of R.S. 17:3141.1-3141.14 and R.S. 49:951-966.

E. Revocation of Permits. A permit may be revoked for any of the causes set forth in R.S. 17:3141.11. Notice of contemplated revocation must be given in writing at least 30 days prior to the effective date of revocation. At any time within 30 days prior to the revocation, upon request of the solicitor, the commission shall afford the solicitor an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel. On or before 30 days prior to the date set for hearing, the commission shall notify the aggrieved solicitor of the date and purpose of the hearing and the grounds for the contemplated revocation of the permit. The procedure for revocation shall be in accordance with those prescribed by R.S. 49:951-966 and by R.S. 17:3141.1-14 as applicable to such action.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.3(E), R.S. 17:3141.8, R.S. 17:3141.9.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1861 (September 2007).

## Chapter 9. Proprietary Schools Applications

### §901. Initial License or Change of Ownership

A. Please refer to the PSC-14 Form, Proprietary Schools License Requirements Checklist.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.4, R.S. 17:3141.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1862 (September 2007).

### §903. License Renewal

A. Renewal letters are mailed to the school owners annually. A license renewal application must be received in this office 30 days prior to the license expiration. If it is not, there shall be a \$500 delinquent fee. Failure to furnish all the renewal information prior to the license expiration date will cause the license to expire. There can be no exceptions or any other extension. The following paperwork must be submitted:

1. a completed PSC-1 Form;
2. the original verification from the bonding company that the surety bonds (\$10,000 for school and \$1,000 per solicitor) are still in effect must accompany the renewal application. The premium period must coincide with the school's licensure period. For example, August 26, 2006-August 26, 2007;
3. a completed PSC-12 form;
4. the renewal fee based upon the school's previous year's gross tuition revenues. The check is to be made payable to the "Louisiana Board of Regents." Refer to the PSC-12 form;
5. financial statements:

a. for those schools which participate in Title IV funding, an original set of financial statements that have been audited by an independent Certified Public Accountant licensed in the state of Louisiana, including a current balance sheet and an income statement showing gross tuition receipts for the school's last fiscal year, and in the case of a corporation, signed by an officer of the corporation, sole proprietorship or partnership, signed by the owner(s) or a duly authorized agent acting on behalf of the owner(s), stating that it is true and correct; and

b. for those schools which do not participate in Title IV funding, an original set of financial statements that have been reviewed by a Independent Public Accountant licensed in the state of Louisiana, including a current balance sheet and an income statement showing gross tuition receipts for the school's last fiscal year, and in the case of a corporation or sole proprietorship or partnership, signed by the owner(s) or a duly authorized agent acting on behalf of the owner(s) stating that it is true and correct;

6. an internal compilation reflecting the school's most recent quarter, if the audit/review submitted with the renewal materials, reflects a business year that ended more than 120 days prior to the submission of the renewal materials;

7. a completed PSC-18 Form reflecting the application date listed on the PSC-1 Form;

8. a completed PSC-4 Form for any new solicitor employed with the school. The initial and/or renewal fee is \$100 per solicitor is to be made payable to the "Louisiana Board of Regents";

9. a completed PSC-9 Form on all instructors and staff employed since the last school renewal, unless previously approved during the year;

10. a current school catalog;

11. a current copy of the Enrollment Agreement/Enrollment Contract.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.4, R.S. 17:3141.5.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1862 (September 2007).

### §905. Associate in Occupational Studies (AOS) Degree Application

A. Requirements. An eligible post-secondary school may award a non-academic degree entitled "The Associate in Occupational Studies."

1. The school must be licensed by the board, domiciled in the state of Louisiana, and accredited by a regional or national accrediting agency recognized by the United States Department of Education.

B. The board shall revoke the degree-granting status of any post-secondary school that loses or withdraws its accreditation.

C. No school shall be licensed to award the Associate of Arts or Associate of Science. All advertising, recruiting, and

publications shall state clearly that such occupational degree awarded by a post-secondary school is non-academic and does not imply, promise, or guarantee transferability.

D. Each student admitted to an occupational degree program in an accredited post-secondary school shall be required to:

1. have a high school diploma or equivalent; and
2. complete a minimum of two years, four semesters, or six quarters of course work for each occupational degree program.

E. Each AOS degree program shall have a minimum of 75 percent of its course of study in a specific occupational area.

F. Each course of study shall have a minimum of 96 quarter hours if using quarter hours, a minimum of 1800 clock hours if using clock hours, and a minimum of 64 semester hours if using semester hours.

G. Application Enclosures. Enclose one original and eight copies, in binders with tabs, of the following:

1. a completed PSC-1 Form, including the title of the proposed AOS degree program;
2. the completed PSC-11 Form;
3. a blank copy of the diploma that would be awarded upon successful completion of the AOS degree program;
4. a detailed program outline including subject numbers, subject titles, clock hours, quarter hours or semester hours (whichever is used for each subject), and total clock hours, quarter hours, or semester hours (whichever is used for each program);
5. a description of each subject listed on the outline; and
6. an inventory list of equipment/supplies/furnishings available for the AOS degree program.

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.15.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1862 (September 2007).

## Chapter 11. Student Protection Fund

### §1101. Policies and Procedures

#### A. Student Protection Fund Policy

1. The Student Protection Fund is administered by the board and the commission; shall be subjected to audit and review by the Legislative Auditor's Office.

2. Required refunds due from the Student Protection Fund will be provided on a pro rata basis, or other means as appropriate. Prior to any funds being released from the Student Protection Funds, the school's surety bond must be exhausted.

3. For students that have loans, the administrator of the Student Protection Fund will enter into an agreement

with the state guaranty agency that any refunds will be allocated as follows:

- a. present holder of the loan, whether lender or LOSFA, and any remaining balance to the borrower;
- b. for students without loans, appropriate tuition repayment.

4. Administration of the Student Protection Fund is subject to review by the U.S. Department of Education and the state guaranty agency:

- a. the commission staff shall retain all records pertaining to the determination of payment or denial of refunds for a period of not less than one year after the final determination has been made;
- b. records shall be maintained in an organized manner; and
- c. records shall be readily accessible to the U.S. Department of Education and guaranty agency auditors.

#### B. Student Protection Fund Procedures

1. The application for tuition recovery (PSC-15 Form), may be submitted after reasonable efforts to compensate the student from the following resources have been exhausted (see PSC-15 Form for instructions):

- a. provide teach-out;
- b. acquire refund from the school;
- c. acquire refund from any other school resources; and
- d. acquire refund from U.S. Department of Education, Closed School Section;

2. lenders holding loans eligible for refunds under the Student Protection Fund may submit the claims to the commission without undertaking any additional collection activity, if the commission determines that the student has not submitted a claim. Submission of a claim by the lender will preclude the student from filing a claim at a later time;

3. refund calculations will be based upon copies of enrollment contracts, student ledger cards, and other pertinent documents submitted by the student; and

4. students and/or lenders applying for relief to the Student Protection Fund will be notified of the status of the request within 60 days of receipt of the application by the commission staff.

**AUTHORITY NOTE:** Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.16.

**HISTORICAL NOTE:** Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1863 (September 2007).

## Chapter 13. Advertising Rules for Proprietary Schools

### §1301. Advertising Rules

A. Advertising. All advertising shall forthrightly disclose the purpose of the advertising, that education or training, not

a job, is offered, and that the advertiser is a school. Advertising includes any form of public notice however disseminated or utilized. Within this definition would be all publications, communications, promotional items, and efforts which could normally be expected to be seen or encountered by significant numbers of prospective students or their sponsors. Examples include catalogs and other school publications, signs, mailing pieces, radio, television, audio-visual, newspaper, internet or any other form of public notice resulting from the school's recruiting and promotional activities.

B. Solicitation. In the solicitation of students, a school shall not directly, or by implication, misrepresent the services it renders. All advertisements and promotional literature used shall be truthful, informative and constructive; and avoid conveying any false, misleading or exaggerated impressions with respect to the school, its personnel, its courses and services, or the occupational opportunities for its graduates. The true purpose and nature of a school's offerings shall be evident in all advertising. Every advertisement shall constitute to the reader a clear statement of a bonafide offer or announcement made in good faith. It shall be written to its anticipated readership, normally persons unsophisticated in the traditional word usage of the education industry. Therefore, all solicitation must be truthful and conducted with extreme care.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.13, R.S. 17:3141.5(A)(2).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1863 (September 2007).

## Chapter 15. Violations

### §1501. Authority, Investigation, and Sanctions

A. Violations. The following is an illustrative, but not exclusive, list of actions constituting a violation:

1. failure to provide the commission with an item of information required by R.S. 17:3141.1 et seq.;
2. misrepresentation about a school's credentials or accreditation;
3. a false claim or guaranty of employment by a school or solicitor;
4. failure to disclose to a student a necessary requirement for employment;
5. false or misleading advertising;
6. unethical behavior by a solicitor;
7. failure to disclose liability for repayment of a student loan;
8. failure to respond to student complaints as provided in the student complaint rule, R.S. 17:3141.3(D)(2)(b) and 17:3131.3(E);
9. employment of an instructor who is unqualified;
10. unsafe or unhealthy condition of a school;

11. unsafe, unhealthy, or inadequate instructional equipment;

12. failure to teach the number of hours claimed;

13. failure to maintain attendance records and to provide them for inspection;

14. failure to comply with a contractual relationship with a student;

15. failure to release the grades of a student;

16. failure to cooperate with an investigator from the commission;

17. attempting to obtain, obtaining, or renewing a license to operate a school by fraudulent misrepresentation or bribery;

18. placement of classified advertisement under "employment" or other similar categories related to employment rather than "education" or "instruction";

19. upon closure, failure to transfer student records to the board; and

20. failure to comply with the provision of R.S. 17:3141.1 et seq., or any written rule or regulation of the board.

B. Authority and Scope. The definition of "school" for the purpose of this rule shall include a licensed school and school owners, employees, operators, agents and solicitors. The commission shall use the following procedures prior to making a recommendation to the board under R.S. 17:3141.8(A) that a school license should be revoked, canceled, or suspended.

1. Any school found to be in violation of any provision of R.S. 17:3141 et seq., or any other state regulation adopted by the commission pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act governing the administration or operation of a school may be sanctioned by one or more of the following remedies:

- a. restitution and remedial measures;
- b. civil money penalties (fines); and
- c. revocation, suspension, cancellation, or other restrictions on the license.

2. The commission's assessment of a sanction shall be based on the following considerations:

- a. whether the violation or substantially similar violation has previously occurred;
- b. the duration of the violation;
- c. the severity of the violation;
- d. the school's history of compliance with the regulations;
- e. what sanction is most likely to bring the school into compliance in the shortest time;

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f. the "good faith" exercised by the school in attempting to stay in compliance with the regulations; and

g. such other factors as the commission deems appropriate.

### C. Investigation

1. When the commission's staff becomes aware of a violation, it may conduct an onsite investigation of a school. The inspection may or may not be announced at the discretion of the staff.

2. The agent conducting the investigation shall have the authority to:

a. privately interview administrators, teachers, solicitors, and students;

b. inspect school records, documents, catalogs, forms, and advertisements; and

c. inspect the school facilities and equipment.

3. The school shall cooperate fully with the agent.

4. Within five days of the investigation the agent shall prepare a written report which shall be furnished to the commission staff and the school. The report shall contain:

a. factual findings relevant to the initial violation;

b. factual findings of any additional violations;

c. recommendations of remedial measures to be taken by the school; and

d. recommendations of any sanctions to be taken by the commission including the commission's petition for an injunction to terminate the violation;

e. the procedure by which an administrative hearing may be requested.

5. Additional or follow-up visits may be made to the school to monitor violations or to monitor remedial measures taken to correct prior violations.

### D. Notice of a Violation

1. When a violation of state statutes or regulations governing the administration or operation of a school has occurred, in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.8, the commission staff shall give notice of the violation to the school's director by certified mail, return receipt, and shall afford the school an opportunity to be heard in person or by counsel.

2. The written notice of the violation shall:

a. specify the violation(s);

b. cite the legal authority which establishes the violation(s);

c. cite any sanctions assessed for each violation;

d. inform the school's director that the determination of the violation and imposition of the sanction

are final, and no further administrative or judicial appeals may be had if a timely appeal is not filed; and

e. inform the school's director if the violation is regarded as a repeat or continuing violation and the manner in which the sanction will be imposed.

3. If the school requests a hearing, the commission staff shall hold a hearing and take evidence. Strict rules of evidence shall not apply. A tape recording of the hearing shall be made. The school may deny the violation, admit the violation in part and deny it in part, or admit the violation but request a reduction or modification of the sanction imposed. The school may present witnesses or documentary evidence in its defense bearing directly on the violation asserted. The school is limited to one witness to attest to its reputation or to remedial measures it has taken. The commission may consider reputation and remedial measures in mitigation of the sanction. For continued or repeat violations, reputation or remedial measures shall not be considered.

4. The commission staff shall have authority to determine for purposes of making a recommendation to the board, whether a violation is a repeat or continuing violation:

a. a repeat violation is the recurrence of the same or a substantially similar violation within a period of 12 months;

b. a continuing violation is one that may be reasonably expected to continue until corrective action is taken. A continuing violation may be considered as a repeat violation for each day following the day on which the initial violation is established, until such time as there is evidence establishing a date by which the violation is corrected. A continuing violation may be subject to appropriate sanctions for repeat violations up to the number of days of the violation at the discretion of the commission staff.

5. After holding a hearing, the commission shall submit its findings to the board, and may recommend any of the penalties listed in Paragraph 1501.B.1 and Subsection 1501.F, as it deems appropriate. The commission shall also forward a copy of its findings and recommendation to the school, notify the school of the date of the board meeting when the commission's recommendation will be considered, and advise the school of the opportunity to appear at the board's meeting by person or by counsel and be heard. After due consideration of the commission's recommendation and the school's arguments (if the school presents any arguments) and upon a vote of two-thirds of the authorized membership of the board, the board may revoke, cancel, suspend or restrict the school's license, or impose fines or refunds.

6. A sanction which requires monetary payments, either fines or restitution, shall be paid within a timeframe as determined by the board following its notification.

### E. Description of Sanctions

1. Restitution and Remedial Measures. The commission may impose sanctions consisting of, but not limited to, the following measures:

- a. rebate of all or a portion of the tuition to the students;
- b. modification or termination of advertising when unwarranted, false, or misleading claims are made, or placement of corrective ads;
- c. counseling of students when they have been misinformed about a material matter;
- d. the posting of a sign in a prominent position in a school correcting a false representation made to the students;
- e. the distribution of an informational leaflet to the students informing them of their rights;
- f. the inclusion or exclusion of information from the student catalog to correct a misrepresentation;
- g. repairs or modification to a physical facility when health or safety is jeopardized;
- h. repairs or modification to equipment when health or safety or delivery of quality instruction is jeopardized;
- i. an order to terminate a gross violation of the statutes or regulations;
- j. an order to cease the enrollment of new students or to limit enrollment to those students who meet more restrictive admission standards; and
- k. modification of the curricula or methods of instruction.

2. Civil Money Penalties (Fines). The commission has the authority to impose a fine up to \$500 for each violation. Repeat or continuing violations may be assessed separate fines up to \$500 for each day of violation. After a fine is imposed, the commission may allow a specified period of time for the correction of the violation. If the violation is corrected, the commission may waive the payment of the fine. The school may be given the opportunity to demonstrate compliance before the fine becomes final. A violation for which a fine is waived shall still be counted for repeat and continued violations. The right to assess civil fines is not merged in other remedies, and the commission may impose other sanctions in addition to the fines.

3. Revocation of License. The commission may recommend the revocation of a school's license to the board.

F. Appeal Procedure. Any sanction may be administratively appealed as long as the appeal is timely filed in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.8(F).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.3(D)(2), R.S. 17:3141.8, R.S. 17:3141.14, R.S. 17:3141.18.

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1863 (September 2007).

## Chapter 17. Student Complaint Procedure

### §1701. Policies, Conciliation, Conference, Hearing, and Review

#### A. General Policies

1. The purpose of this complaint procedure is to provide an effective and efficient method by which students may resolve their complaints with the commission staff under the jurisdiction of the board;

2. the commission staff shall prepare and provide a copy of the complaint procedure to each licensed school; and

3. each school shall include in either their catalog or enrollment agreement the following:

a. complaints relative to actions of school officials may be made and must be in writing, addressed to the Louisiana Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, P.O. Box 3677, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677, 225/342-4253. Such complaints may be made only after the student has unsuccessfully attempted to resolve the matter with the school by having first filed a written and signed complaint with that school's officials. Any student who wishes to review the student complaint procedure may make a request for a copy of the procedure, in writing, addressed to the Louisiana Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, P.O. Box 3677, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677, (225)342-4253.

#### B. Conciliation

1. Any student who believes he/she has been aggrieved by actions of school officials shall complain in writing to the commission staff at Louisiana Board of Regents, Proprietary Schools Section, Post Office Box 3677, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3677, 225/342-4253, only after having first filed a written and signed complaint with the school officials;

2. if the complaint is not resolved, the student may submit a written request for assistance to resolve the matter with the school after having first filed a written and signed complaint with that school's officials;

3. copies of this initial notice of the complaint will be sent to the school and to the complainant. A copy must also be retained in the commission staff files;

4. the notice of complaint will request that the student and the school meet and discuss the complaint in a conciliation effort and/or communicate in writing within 10 days after receipt of the notice;

5. if after 10 days, the complaint has not been satisfactorily resolved, the student may request further assistance from the commission staff; and

6. the commission staff may, at its discretion, eliminate the conciliation procedure where a student has

already contacted the school regarding the problem and may proceed directly to the mediation conference.

### C. Mediation Conference

1. If the student advises the Section that no satisfactory resolution has been achieved with the school through the conciliation procedure, at that point the commission staff may forward the complaint and all associated materials to the Louisiana Division of Administrative Law.

2. If no amicable resolution is achieved in the mediation process, either party may request, within seven days, a hearing before the commission. Within five working days following a request for a hearing, the commission staff shall send written notice to the parties containing the following:

- a. an explanation of the hearing procedures; and
- b. the date, time and place for the hearing.

### D. Hearing:

1. a public hearing shall be held before the commission. The parties shall be given 15 days notice in advance of the hearing, including the time, place and nature of the hearing and a statement of the alleged complaints to be the subject of the hearing;

2. the hearing shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act; and

3. the commission shall prepare a report of its findings and recommendations and submit it to the board. The board shall render a decision accompanied by written reasons within 30 days following the conclusion of the hearing. This decision will be transmitted to all parties with a notice of the right to judicial review.

E. Judicial Review. Either party may appeal to the Nineteenth Judicial District in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.3(E), R.S. 17:3141.3(D)(2).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1865 (September 2007).

## Chapter 19. Student Records

### §1901. General Policies

A. All schools shall maintain all student records as required under R.S. 17:3141.16(D)(3). All student records shall include, but are not limited to enrollment agreements, attendance records, financial and academic transcripts, and exit interview.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.3(E), R.S. 17:3141.16(D)(3).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1866 (September 2007).

### §1903. Transfer of Student Records

A. A school must make arrangements to transfer all student records to the Commissioner of Higher Education at the commission's address within 10 days of closing. If any of the records have been seized or confiscated by legal authorities, the board shall request the authorities for documentation regarding seizure of the records. However, the school remains responsible for turning over unseized records. Any closed school, that maintains student files and electronic files shall make arrangements to electronically transfer such records to the board. The records shall be prepared in the following manner:

1. they shall be filed in alphabetical order;
2. each container will be clearly marked "official records" and will show the alphabetical order within the container (e.g., aa to bc); and
3. the containers shall be sealed to prevent loss or damage and marked in succession.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.3(E), R.S. 17:3141.16(D)(3).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1866 (September 2007).

### §1905. Penalties

A. Failure to maintain and/or turn over student records as provided above will result in the assessment of penalties.

B. If necessary, a claim shall be made against the surety bond posted at the time of submission of the license application to satisfy any penalties for failure to maintain and/or turn over student records pursuant to R.S. 17:3141.5(D)(1)(b)(iv).

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.3(E), R.S. 17:3141.16(D)(3).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1866 (September 2007).

## Chapter 21. Exceptions

### §2101. Board Authority

A. The board retains the authority to waive or make exceptions to any provision of these regulations if it deems such waiver or exception to be in the public interest. This authority shall be exercised by majority vote of the Louisiana Board of Regents pursuant to request by a school, any interested party, recommendation of the commission, or upon its own motion.

AUTHORITY NOTE: Promulgated in accordance with R.S. 17:3141.3(E), R.S. 17:3141.3(D)(2).

HISTORICAL NOTE: Promulgated by the Department of Education, Board of Regents, LR 33:1866 (September 2007).